(b) if so, the average annual production in the public sector and private sector separately during the last five years; and

(c) the quantum of production, out of this, exported annually on average?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per available information, the annual production in the public sector and private sector companies during the last five years is given below:—

(*Quantum in '000 tonnes*)

Year	Public Sector	Private Sector	Total
2001-02	45098	41128	86226
2002-03	49696	49376	99072
2003-04	57543	65295	122838
2004-05	57028	85760	142788
2005-06 (Provisional)	58813	95437	154250

(c) As per information available from DGCIS Kolkata, the quantum of iron ore exported during the last five years is given below:

(*Quantum in '000 tonnes*)

2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 (provisional)
20200	23086	57094	51496	83166

Extraction and import of iron ore deposits by private companies

35. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that well-known private companies are acquiring large areas of property in and around Raman Durga hills near Hosepet in Karnataka for extraction and export of iron ore deposits in large scale;

(b) whether it is also a fact that despite large volumes of iron ore are mined and exported no attention has been paid towards development of the areas which remains backward; and

(c) whether National Environmental Engineering Research Institute has investigated and found that this large scale mining has caused serious erosion in the health standards and significant loss of forests?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) State Government being the owners of minerals grant mining leases, prior approval of the Central Government is mandatory in case of minerals in the First Schedule of Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. 17 prior approvals for grant of mining lease for iron ore and manganese have been granted in Bellary District of Karnataka after the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) gave its recommendations.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Yes Sir. However, in view of the recommendations of NEERI to ensure scientific mining along with environmental protection measurs to mitigate the problems of over-burden disposal, the Ministry of Mines accords prior approval for grant of mining leases for only those proposals which have an approved mining plan.

National Mineral Policy

†36. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of State had announced in Orissa recently that Government will announce a National Mineral Policy within next two months;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) whether this will diminish the rights of the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) The Minister of State had stated in the Conference that the High Level Committee, constituted to *inter alia* review the National Mineral Policy, is submitting its report shortly to the Government.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, do not arise.Control of Iron Ore Mining by few individuals.

Control of Iron Ore mining by few individuals

37. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.